Linear Algebra

and its applications

FOURTH EDITION

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on vector spaces of functions, and Chapter 4 extends the theory of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^n$ to include such functions. Later on, you will see how other vector spaces arise in engineering, physics, and statistics.

WEB

The mathematical seeds planted in Chapters 1 and 2 germinate and begin to blossom in this chapter. The beauty and power of linear algebra will be seen more clearly when you view $\mathbb{R}^n$ as only one of a variety of vector spaces that arise naturally in applied problems. Actually, a study of vector spaces is not much different from a study of $\mathbb{R}^n$ itself, because you can use your geometric experience with $\mathbb{R}^2$ and $\mathbb{R}^3$ to visualize many general concepts.

Beginning with basic definitions in Section 4.1, the general vector space framework develops gradually throughout the chapter. A goal of Sections 4.3–4.5 is to demonstrate how closely other vector spaces resemble $\mathbb{R}^n$. Section 4.6 on rank is one of the high points of the chapter, using vector space terminology to tie together important facts about rectangular matrices. Section 4.8 applies the theory of the chapter to discrete signals and difference equations used in digital control systems such as in the space shuttle. Markov chains, in Section 4.9, provide a change of pace from the more theoretical sections of the chapter and make good examples for concepts to be introduced in Chapter 5.

4.1 VECTOR SPACES AND SUBSPACES

Much of the theory in Chapters 1 and 2 rested on certain simple and obvious algebraic properties of $\mathbb{R}^n$, listed in Section 1.3. In fact, many other mathematical systems have the same properties. The specific properties of interest are listed in the following definition.

DEFINITION

A **vector space** is a nonempty set V of objects, called *vectors*, on which are defined two operations, called *addition* and *multiplication by scalars* (real numbers), subject to the ten axioms (or rules) listed below.[1] The axioms must hold for all vectors $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{w}$ in V and for all scalars c and d.

1. The sum of $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$, denoted by $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$, is in V.
2. $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$.
3. $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$.
4. There is a **zero** vector $\mathbf{0}$ in V such that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{u}$.
5. For each $\mathbf{u}$ in V, there is a vector $-\mathbf{u}$ in V such that $\mathbf{u} + (-\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$.
6. The scalar multiple of $\mathbf{u}$ by c, denoted by $c\mathbf{u}$, is in V.
7. $c(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = c\mathbf{u} + c\mathbf{v}$.
8. $(c + d)\mathbf{u} = c\mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}$.
9. $c(d\mathbf{u}) = (cd)\mathbf{u}$.
10. $1\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}$.

[1] Technically, V is a *real vector space*. All of the theory in this chapter also holds for a *complex vector space* in which the scalars are complex numbers. We will look at this briefly in Chapter 5. Until then, all scalars are assumed to be real.

Using only these axioms, one can show that the zero vector in Axiom 4 is unique, and the vector $-\mathbf{u}$, called the **negative** of $\mathbf{u}$, in Axiom 5 is unique for each $\mathbf{u}$ in V. See Exercises 25 and 26. Proofs of the following simple facts are also outlined in the exercises:

For each $\mathbf{u}$ in V and scalar c,

$$0\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \tag{1}$$

$$c\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0} \tag{2}$$

$$-\mathbf{u} = (-1)\mathbf{u} \tag{3}$$

EXAMPLE 1 The spaces $\mathbb{R}^n$, where $n \geq 1$, are the premier examples of vector spaces. The geometric intuition developed for $\mathbb{R}^3$ will help you understand and visualize many concepts throughout the chapter. ■

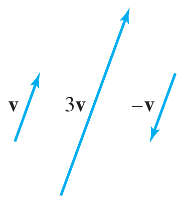


FIGURE 1

EXAMPLE 2 Let V be the set of all arrows (directed line segments) in three-dimensional space, with two arrows regarded as equal if they have the same length and point in the same direction. Define addition by the parallelogram rule (from Section 1.3), and for each $\mathbf{v}$ in V, define $c\mathbf{v}$ to be the arrow whose length is $|c|$ times the length of $\mathbf{v}$, pointing in the same direction as $\mathbf{v}$ if $c \geq 0$ and otherwise pointing in the opposite direction. (See Fig. 1.) Show that V is a vector space. This space is a common model in physical problems for various forces.

SOLUTION The definition of V is geometric, using concepts of length and direction. No xyz-coordinate system is involved. An arrow of zero length is a single point and represents the zero vector. The negative of $\mathbf{v}$ is $(-1)\mathbf{v}$. So Axioms 1, 4, 5, 6, and 10 are evident. The rest are verified by geometry. For instance, see Figs. 2 and 3. ■

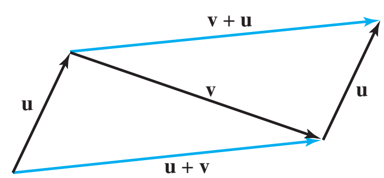


FIGURE 2 $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{u}$.

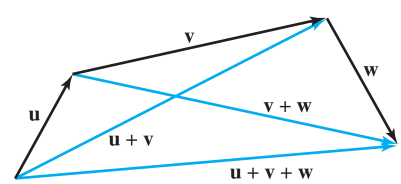


FIGURE 3 $(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w})$.

EXAMPLE 3 Let $\mathbb{S}$ be the space of all doubly infinite sequences of numbers (usually written in a row rather than a column):

$$\{y_k\} = (\ldots, y_{-2}, y_{-1}, y_0, y_1, y_2, \ldots)$$

If $\{z_k\}$ is another element of $\mathbb{S}$, then the sum $\{y_k\} + \{z_k\}$ is the sequence $\{y_k + z_k\}$ formed by adding corresponding terms of $\{y_k\}$ and $\{z_k\}$. The scalar multiple $c\{y_k\}$ is the sequence $\{cy_k\}$. The vector space axioms are verified in the same way as for $\mathbb{R}^n$.

Elements of $\mathbb{S}$ arise in engineering, for example, whenever a signal is measured (or sampled) at discrete times. A signal might be electrical, mechanical, optical, and so on. The major control systems for the space shuttle, mentioned in the chapter introduction, use discrete (or digital) signals. For convenience, we will call $\mathbb{S}$ the space of (discrete-time) **signals**. A signal may be visualized by a graph as in Fig. 4. ■

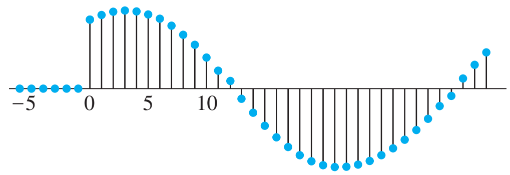


FIGURE 4 A discrete-time signal.

EXAMPLE 4 For $n \geq 0$, the set $\mathbb{P}_n$ of polynomials of degree at most n consists of all polynomials of the form

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \cdots + a_n t^n \tag{4}$$

where the coefficients $a_0, \ldots, a_n$ and the variable t are real numbers. The *degree* of $\mathbf{p}$ is the highest power of t in (4) whose coefficient is not zero. If $\mathbf{p}(t) = a_0 \neq 0$, the degree of $\mathbf{p}$ is zero. If all the coefficients are zero, $\mathbf{p}$ is called the *zero polynomial*. The zero polynomial is included in $\mathbb{P}_n$ even though its degree, for technical reasons, is not defined.

If $\mathbf{p}$ is given by (4) and if $\mathbf{q}(t) = b_0 + b_1 t + \cdots + b_n t^n$, then the sum $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q})(t) &= \mathbf{p}(t) + \mathbf{q}(t) \\ &= (a_0 + b_0) + (a_1 + b_1)t + \cdots + (a_n + b_n)t^n\end{aligned}$$

The scalar multiple $c\mathbf{p}$ is the polynomial defined by

$$(c\mathbf{p})(t) = c\mathbf{p}(t) = ca_0 + (ca_1)t + \cdots + (ca_n)t^n$$

These definitions satisfy Axioms 1 and 6 because $\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}$ and $c\mathbf{p}$ are polynomials of degree less than or equal to n. Axioms 2, 3, and 7–10 follow from properties of the real numbers. Clearly, the zero polynomial acts as the zero vector in Axiom 4. Finally, $(-1)\mathbf{p}$ acts as the negative of $\mathbf{p}$, so Axiom 5 is satisfied. Thus $\mathbb{P}_n$ is a vector space.

The vector spaces $\mathbb{P}_n$ for various n are used, for instance, in statistical trend analysis of data, discussed in Section 6.8. ■

EXAMPLE 5 Let V be the set of all real-valued functions defined on a set $\mathbb{D}$. (Typically, $\mathbb{D}$ is the set of real numbers or some interval on the real line.) Functions are added in the usual way: $\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g}$ is the function whose value at t in the domain $\mathbb{D}$ is $\mathbf{f}(t) + \mathbf{g}(t)$. Likewise, for a scalar c and an $\mathbf{f}$ in V, the scalar multiple $c\mathbf{f}$ is the function whose value at t is $c\mathbf{f}(t)$. For instance, if $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{f}(t) = 1 + \sin 2t$, and $\mathbf{g}(t) = 2 + .5t$, then

$$(\mathbf{f} + \mathbf{g})(t) = 3 + \sin 2t + .5t \quad \text{and} \quad (2\mathbf{g})(t) = 4 + t$$

Two functions in V are equal if and only if their values are equal for every t in $\mathbb{D}$. Hence the zero vector in V is the function that is identically zero, $\mathbf{f}(t) = 0$ for all t, and the negative of $\mathbf{f}$ is $(-1)\mathbf{f}$. Axioms 1 and 6 are obviously true, and the other axioms follow from properties of the real numbers, so V is a vector space. ■

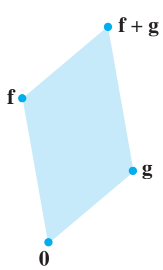


FIGURE 5
The sum of two vectors (functions).

It is important to think of each function in the vector space V of Example 5 as a single object, as just one “point” or vector in the vector space. The sum of two vectors $\mathbf{f}$ and $\mathbf{g}$ (functions in V, or elements of *any* vector space) can be visualized as in Fig. 5, because this can help you carry over to a general vector space the geometric intuition you have developed while working with the vector space $\mathbb{R}^n$. See the *Study Guide* for help as you learn to adopt this more general point of view.

Subspaces

In many problems, a vector space consists of an appropriate subset of vectors from some larger vector space. In this case, only three of the ten vector space axioms need to be checked; the rest are automatically satisfied.

DEFINITION

A **subspace** of a vector space V is a subset H of V that has three properties:

a. The zero vector of V is in H.[2]
b. H is closed under vector addition. That is, for each $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ in H, the sum $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is in H.
c. H is closed under multiplication by scalars. That is, for each $\mathbf{u}$ in H and each scalar c, the vector $c\mathbf{u}$ is in H.

Properties (a), (b), and (c) guarantee that a subspace H of V is itself a *vector space*, under the vector space operations already defined in V. To verify this, note that properties (a), (b), and (c) are Axioms 1, 4, and 6. Axioms 2, 3, and 7–10 are automatically true in H because they apply to all elements of V, including those in H. Axiom 5 is also true in H, because if $\mathbf{u}$ is in H, then $(-1)\mathbf{u}$ is in H by property (c), and we know from equation (3) on page 191 that $(-1)\mathbf{u}$ is the vector $-\mathbf{u}$ in Axiom 5.

So every subspace is a vector space. Conversely, every vector space is a subspace (of itself and possibly of other larger spaces). The term *subspace* is used when at least two vector spaces are in mind, with one inside the other, and the phrase *subspace of* V identifies V as the larger space. (See Fig. 6.)

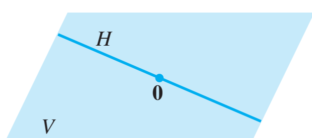


FIGURE 6
A subspace of V.

EXAMPLE 6 The set consisting of only the zero vector in a vector space V is a subspace of V, called the **zero subspace** and written as $\{\mathbf{0}\}$. ■

EXAMPLE 7 Let $\mathbb{P}$ be the set of all polynomials with real coefficients, with operations in $\mathbb{P}$ defined as for functions. Then $\mathbb{P}$ is a subspace of the space of all real-valued functions defined on $\mathbb{R}$. Also, for each $n \geq 0$, $\mathbb{P}_n$ is a subspace of $\mathbb{P}$, because $\mathbb{P}_n$ is a subset of $\mathbb{P}$ that contains the zero polynomial, the sum of two polynomials in $\mathbb{P}_n$ is also in $\mathbb{P}_n$, and a scalar multiple of a polynomial in $\mathbb{P}_n$ is also in $\mathbb{P}_n$. ■

EXAMPLE 8 The vector space $\mathbb{R}^2$ is *not* a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$ because $\mathbb{R}^2$ is not even a subset of $\mathbb{R}^3$. (The vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ all have three entries, whereas the vectors in $\mathbb{R}^2$ have only two.) The set

$$H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} s \\ t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} : s \text{ and } t \text{ are real} \right\}$$

is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^3$ that "looks" and "acts" like $\mathbb{R}^2$, although it is logically distinct from $\mathbb{R}^2$. See Fig. 7. Show that H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

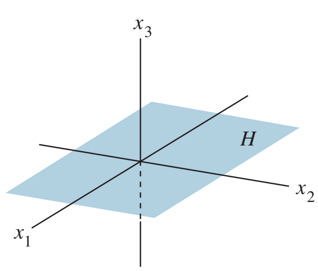


FIGURE 7
The x_1x_2-plane as a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

SOLUTION The zero vector is in H, and H is closed under vector addition and scalar multiplication because these operations on vectors in H always produce vectors whose third entries are zero (and so belong to H). Thus H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$. ■

[2] Some texts replace property (a) in this definition by the assumption that H is nonempty. Then (a) could be deduced from (c) and the fact that $0\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$. But the best way to test for a subspace is to look first for the zero vector. If $\mathbf{0}$ is in H, then properties (b) and (c) must be checked. If $\mathbf{0}$ is *not* in H, then H cannot be a subspace and the other properties need not be checked.

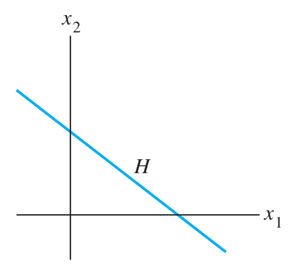


FIGURE 8
A line that is not a vector space.

EXAMPLE 9 A plane in $\mathbb{R}^3$ *not* through the origin is not a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$, because the plane does not contain the zero vector of $\mathbb{R}^3$. Similarly, a line in $\mathbb{R}^2$ *not* through the origin, such as in Fig. 8, is *not* a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^2$. ■

A Subspace Spanned by a Set

The next example illustrates one of the most common ways of describing a subspace. As in Chapter 1, the term **linear combination** refers to any sum of scalar multiples of vectors, and Span $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ denotes the set of all vectors that can be written as linear combinations of $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$.

EXAMPLE 10 Given $\mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{v}_2$ in a vector space V, let $H = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$. Show that H is a subspace of V.

SOLUTION The zero vector is in H, since $\mathbf{0} = 0\mathbf{v}_1 + 0\mathbf{v}_2$. To show that H is closed under vector addition, take two arbitrary vectors in H, say,

$$\mathbf{u} = s_1\mathbf{v}_1 + s_2\mathbf{v}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{w} = t_1\mathbf{v}_1 + t_2\mathbf{v}_2$$

By Axioms 2, 3, and 8 for the vector space V,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w} &= (s_1\mathbf{v}_1 + s_2\mathbf{v}_2) + (t_1\mathbf{v}_1 + t_2\mathbf{v}_2) \\ &= (s_1 + t_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (s_2 + t_2)\mathbf{v}_2\end{aligned}$$

So $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$ is in H. Furthermore, if c is any scalar, then by Axioms 7 and 9,

$$c\mathbf{u} = c(s_1\mathbf{v}_1 + s_2\mathbf{v}_2) = (cs_1)\mathbf{v}_1 + (cs_2)\mathbf{v}_2$$

which shows that $c\mathbf{u}$ is in H and H is closed under scalar multiplication. Thus H is a subspace of V. ■

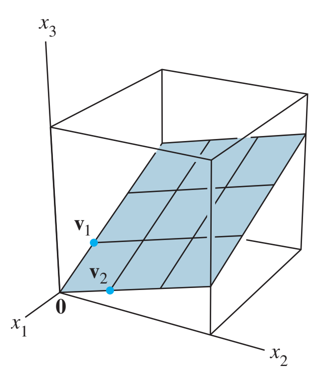


FIGURE 9
An example of a subspace.

In Section 4.5, you will see that every nonzero subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$, other than $\mathbb{R}^3$ itself, is either Span $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ for some linearly independent $\mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{v}_2$ or Span $\{\mathbf{v}\}$ for $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$. In the first case, the subspace is a plane through the origin; in the second case, it is a line through the origin. (See Fig. 9.) It is helpful to keep these geometric pictures in mind, even for an abstract vector space.

The argument in Example 10 can easily be generalized to prove the following theorem.

THEOREM 1

If $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ are in a vector space V, then Span $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is a subspace of V.

We call Span $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ **the subspace spanned** (or **generated**) by $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$. Given any subspace H of V, a **spanning** (or **generating**) **set** for H is a set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ in H such that $H = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$.

The next example shows how to use Theorem 1.

EXAMPLE 11 Let H be the set of all vectors of the form $(a - 3b, b - a, a, b)$, where a and b are arbitrary scalars. That is, let $H = \{(a - 3b, b - a, a, b) : a \text{ and } b \text{ in } \mathbb{R}\}$. Show that H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$.

SOLUTION Write the vectors in H as column vectors. Then an arbitrary vector in H has the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a-3b \\ b-a \\ a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = a\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{v}_1} + b\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{v}_2}$$

This calculation shows that $H = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$, where $\mathbf{v}_1$ and $\mathbf{v}_2$ are the vectors indicated above. Thus H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ by Theorem 1. ■

Example 11 illustrates a useful technique of expressing a subspace H as the set of linear combinations of some small collection of vectors. If $H = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$, we can think of the vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ in the spanning set as "handles" that allow us to hold on to the subspace H. Calculations with the infinitely many vectors in H are often reduced to operations with the finite number of vectors in the spanning set.

EXAMPLE 12 For what value(s) of h will $\mathbf{y}$ be in the subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$ spanned by $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$, if

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -4 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ h \end{bmatrix}$$

SOLUTION This question is Practice Problem 2 in Section 1.3, written here with the term *subspace* rather than $\text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$. The solution there shows that $\mathbf{y}$ is in $\text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$ if and only if $h = 5$. That solution is worth reviewing now, along with Exercises 11–16 and 19–21 in Section 1.3. ■

Although many vector spaces in this chapter will be subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^n$, it is important to keep in mind that the abstract theory applies to other vector spaces as well. Vector spaces of functions arise in many applications, and they will receive more attention later.

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Show that the set H of all points in $\mathbb{R}^2$ of the form $(3s, 2 + 5s)$ is not a vector space, by showing that it is not closed under scalar multiplication. (Find a specific vector $\mathbf{u}$ in H and a scalar c such that $c\mathbf{u}$ is not in H.)
2. Let $W = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$, where $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$ are in a vector space V. Show that $\mathbf{v}_k$ is in W for $1 \le k \le p$. [*Hint:* First write an equation that shows that $\mathbf{v}_1$ is in W. Then adjust your notation for the general case.]

WEB

4.1 EXERCISES

1. Let V be the first quadrant in the xy-plane; that is, let
$$V = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} : x \ge 0, y \ge 0 \right\}$$
   a. If $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ are in V, is $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ in V? Why?
   b. Find a specific vector $\mathbf{u}$ in V and a specific scalar c such that $c\mathbf{u}$ is *not* in V. (This is enough to show that V is *not* a vector space.)
2. Let W be the union of the first and third quadrants in the xy-plane. That is, let $W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} : xy \ge 0 \right\}$.
   a. If $\mathbf{u}$ is in W and c is any scalar, is $c\mathbf{u}$ in W? Why?

b. Find specific vectors $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ in W such that $\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}$ is not in W. This is enough to show that W is *not* a vector space.

3. Let H be the set of points inside and on the unit circle in the xy-plane. That is, let $H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} : x^2 + y^2 \le 1 \right\}$. Find a specific example—two vectors or a vector and a scalar—to show that H is not a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^2$.

4. Construct a geometric figure that illustrates why a line in $\mathbb{R}^2$ *not* through the origin is not closed under vector addition.

In Exercises 5–8, determine if the given set is a subspace of $\mathbb{P}_n$ for an appropriate value of n. Justify your answers.

5. All polynomials of the form $\mathbf{p}(t) = at^2$, where a is in $\mathbb{R}$.

6. All polynomials of the form $\mathbf{p}(t) = a + t^2$, where a is in $\mathbb{R}$.

7. All polynomials of degree at most 3, with integers as coefficients.

8. All polynomials in $\mathbb{P}_n$ such that $\mathbf{p}(0) = 0$.

9. Let H be the set of all vectors of the form $\begin{bmatrix} -2t \\ 5t \\ 3t \end{bmatrix}$. Find a vector $\mathbf{v}$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$ such that $H = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}\}$. Why does this show that H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$?

10. Let H be the set of all vectors of the form $\begin{bmatrix} 3t \\ 0 \\ -7t \end{bmatrix}$, where t is any real number. Show that H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$. (Use the method of Exercise 9.)

11. Let W be the set of all vectors of the form $\begin{bmatrix} 2b+3c \\ -b \\ 2c \end{bmatrix}$, where b and c are arbitrary. Find vectors $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ such that $W = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}\}$. Why does this show that W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$?

12. Let W be the set of all vectors of the form $\begin{bmatrix} 2s+4t \\ 2s \\ 2s-3t \\ 5t \end{bmatrix}$. Show that W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$. (Use the method of Exercise 11.)

13. Let $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

a. Is $\mathbf{w}$ in $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$? How many vectors are in $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$?

b. How many vectors are in Span $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$?

c. Is $\mathbf{w}$ in the subspace spanned by $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$? Why?

14. Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ be as in Exercise 13, and let $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$. Is $\mathbf{w}$ in the subspace spanned by $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3\}$? Why?

In Exercises 15–18, let W be the set of all vectors of the form shown, where a, b, and c represent arbitrary real numbers. In each case, either find a set S of vectors that spans W or give an example to show that W is *not* a vector space.

15. $\begin{bmatrix} 2a+3b \\ -1 \\ 2a-5b \end{bmatrix}$

16. $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3a-5b \\ 3b+2a \end{bmatrix}$

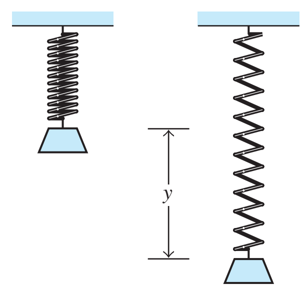
17. $\begin{bmatrix} 2a-b \\ 3b-c \\ 3c-a \\ 3b \end{bmatrix}$

18. $\begin{bmatrix} 4a+3b \\ 0 \\ a+3b+c \\ 3b-2c \end{bmatrix}$

19. If a mass m is placed at the end of a spring, and if the mass is pulled downward and released, the mass–spring system will begin to oscillate. The displacement y of the mass from its resting position is given by a function of the form

$$y(t) = c_1 \cos \omega t + c_2 \sin \omega t \tag{5}$$

where ω is a constant that depends on the spring and the mass. (See the figure below.) Show that the set of all functions described in (5) (with ω fixed and c_1, c_2 arbitrary) is a vector space.



20. The set of all continuous real-valued functions defined on a closed interval $[a, b]$ in $\mathbb{R}$ is denoted by $C[a, b]$. This set is a subspace of the vector space of all real-valued functions defined on $[a, b]$.

a. What facts about continuous functions should be proved in order to demonstrate that $C[a, b]$ is indeed a subspace as claimed? (These facts are usually discussed in a calculus class.)

b. Show that $\{\mathbf{f} \text{ in } C[a, b] : \mathbf{f}(a) = \mathbf{f}(b)\}$ is a subspace of $C[a, b]$.

For fixed positive integers m and n, the set $M_{m\times n}$ of all $m \times n$ matrices is a vector space, under the usual operations of addition of matrices and multiplication by real scalars.

21. Determine if the set H of all matrices of the form $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix}$ is a subspace of $M_{2\times 2}$.

22. Let F be a fixed 3×2 matrix, and let H be the set of all matrices A in $M_{2\times 4}$ with the property that $FA = 0$ (the zero matrix in $M_{3\times 4}$). Determine if H is a subspace of $M_{2\times 4}$.

In Exercises 23 and 24, mark each statement True or False. Justify each answer.

23. a. If $\mathbf{f}$ is a function in the vector space V of all real-valued functions on $\mathbb{R}$ and if $\mathbf{f}(t) = 0$ for some t, then $\mathbf{f}$ is the zero vector in V.

b. A vector is an arrow in three-dimensional space.

c. A subset H of a vector space V is a subspace of V if the zero vector is in H.

d. A subspace is also a vector space.

e. Analog signals are used in the major control systems for the space shuttle, mentioned in the introduction to the chapter.

24. a. A vector is any element of a vector space.

b. If $\mathbf{u}$ is a vector in a vector space V, then $(-1)\mathbf{u}$ is the same as the negative of $\mathbf{u}$.

c. A vector space is also a subspace.

d. $\mathbb{R}^2$ is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

e. A subset H of a vector space V is a subspace of V if the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the zero vector of V is in H, (ii) $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}$ are in H, and (iii) c is a scalar and $c\mathbf{u}$ is in H.

Exercises 25–29 show how the axioms for a vector space V can be used to prove the elementary properties described after the definition of a vector space. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate axiom numbers. Because of Axiom 2, Axioms 4 and 5 imply, respectively, that $\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{u}$ and $-\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{0}$ for all $\mathbf{u}$.

25. Complete the following proof that the zero vector is unique. Suppose that $\mathbf{w}$ in V has the property that $\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{w}+\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{u}$ for all $\mathbf{u}$ in V. In particular, $\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{0}$. But $\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{w}$, by Axiom _____. Hence $\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{0}$.

26. Complete the following proof that $-\mathbf{u}$ is the *unique vector* in V such that $\mathbf{u}+(-\mathbf{u})=\mathbf{0}$. Suppose that $\mathbf{w}$ satisfies $\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{0}$. Adding $-\mathbf{u}$ to both sides, we have

$(-\mathbf{u})+[\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{w}]=(-\mathbf{u})+\mathbf{0}$

$[(-\mathbf{u})+\mathbf{u}]+\mathbf{w}=(-\mathbf{u})+\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (a)

$\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{w}=(-\mathbf{u})+\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (b)

$\mathbf{w}=-\mathbf{u}$ by Axiom _____ (c)

27. Fill in the missing axiom numbers in the following proof that $0\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{0}$ for every $\mathbf{u}$ in V.

$0\mathbf{u}=(0+0)\mathbf{u}=0\mathbf{u}+0\mathbf{u}$ by Axiom _____ (a)

Add the negative of $0\mathbf{u}$ to both sides:

$0\mathbf{u}+(-0\mathbf{u})=[0\mathbf{u}+0\mathbf{u}]+(-0\mathbf{u})$

$0\mathbf{u}+(-0\mathbf{u})=0\mathbf{u}+[0\mathbf{u}+(-0\mathbf{u})]$ by Axiom _____ (b)

$\mathbf{0}=0\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (c)

$\mathbf{0}=0\mathbf{u}$ by Axiom _____ (d)

28. Fill in the missing axiom numbers in the following proof that $c\mathbf{0}=\mathbf{0}$ for every scalar c.

$c\mathbf{0}=c(\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{0})$ by Axiom _____ (a)

$=c\mathbf{0}+c\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (b)

Add the negative of $c\mathbf{0}$ to both sides:

$c\mathbf{0}+(-c\mathbf{0})=[c\mathbf{0}+c\mathbf{0}]+(-c\mathbf{0})$

$c\mathbf{0}+(-c\mathbf{0})=c\mathbf{0}+[c\mathbf{0}+(-c\mathbf{0})]$ by Axiom _____ (c)

$\mathbf{0}=c\mathbf{0}+\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (d)

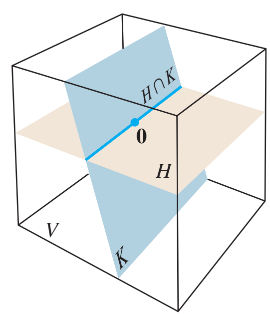
$\mathbf{0}=c\mathbf{0}$ by Axiom _____ (e)

29. Prove that $(-1)\mathbf{u}=-\mathbf{u}$. [*Hint:* Show that $\mathbf{u}+(-1)\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{0}$. Use some axioms and the results of Exercises 27 and 26.]

30. Suppose $c\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{0}$ for some nonzero scalar c. Show that $\mathbf{u}=\mathbf{0}$. Mention the axioms or properties you use.

31. Let $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ be vectors in a vector space V, and let H be any subspace of V that contains both $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$. Explain why H also contains Span $\{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}\}$. This shows that Span $\{\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v}\}$ is the smallest subspace of V that contains both $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$.

32. Let H and K be subspaces of a vector space V. The **intersection** of H and K, written as $H\cap K$, is the set of $\mathbf{v}$ in V that belong to both H and K. Show that $H\cap K$ is a subspace of V. (See the figure.) Give an example in $\mathbb{R}^2$ to show that the union of two subspaces is not, in general, a subspace.



33. Given subspaces H and K of a vector space V, the **sum** of H and K, written as $H+K$, is the set of all vectors in V that can be written as the sum of two vectors, one in H and the other in K; that is,

$H+K=\{\mathbf{w}:\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v}$ for some $\mathbf{u}$ in H
and some $\mathbf{v}$ in $K\}$

a. Show that $H+K$ is a subspace of V.

b. Show that H is a subspace of $H+K$ and K is a subspace of $H+K$.

34. Suppose $\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_p$ and $\mathbf{v}_1,\dots,\mathbf{v}_q$ are vectors in a vector space V, and let

$H=\text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_p\}$ and $K=\text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1,\dots,\mathbf{v}_q\}$

Show that $H+K=\text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{u}_1,\dots,\mathbf{u}_p,\mathbf{v}_1,\dots,\mathbf{v}_q\}$.

35. [**M**] Show that $\mathbf{w}$ is in the subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ spanned by $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$, where

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 9 \\ -4 \\ -4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ -4 \\ -3 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 3 \\ -2 \\ -8 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -7 \\ 6 \\ -5 \\ -18 \end{bmatrix}$$

36. [**M**] Determine if $\mathbf{y}$ is in the subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$ spanned by the columns of A, where

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ -8 \\ 6 \\ -5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 & -9 \\ 8 & 7 & -6 \\ -5 & -8 & 3 \\ 2 & -2 & -9 \end{bmatrix}$$

37. [**M**] The vector space $H = \text{Span}\{1, \cos^2 t, \cos^4 t, \cos^6 t\}$ contains at least two interesting functions that will be used in a later exercise:

$$\mathbf{f}(t) = 1 - 8\cos^2 t + 8\cos^4 t$$
$$\mathbf{g}(t) = -1 + 18\cos^2 t - 48\cos^4 t + 32\cos^6 t$$

Study the graph of $\mathbf{f}$ for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$, and guess a simple formula for $\mathbf{f}(t)$. Verify your conjecture by graphing the difference between $1 + \mathbf{f}(t)$ and your formula for $\mathbf{f}(t)$. (Hopefully, you will see the constant function 1.) Repeat for $\mathbf{g}$.

38. [**M**] Repeat Exercise 37 for the functions

$$\mathbf{f}(t) = 3\sin t - 4\sin^3 t$$
$$\mathbf{g}(t) = 1 - 8\sin^2 t + 8\sin^4 t$$
$$\mathbf{h}(t) = 5\sin t - 20\sin^3 t + 16\sin^5 t$$

in the vector space $\text{Span}\{1, \sin t, \sin^2 t, \ldots, \sin^5 t\}$.

SOLUTIONS TO PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Take any $\mathbf{u}$ in H—say, $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$—and take any $c \neq 1$—say, $c = 2$. Then $c\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$. If this is in H, then there is some s such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3s \\ 2 + 5s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

That is, $s = 2$ and $s = 12/5$, which is impossible. So $2\mathbf{u}$ is not in H and H is not a vector space.

2. $\mathbf{v}_1 = 1\mathbf{v}_1 + 0\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + 0\mathbf{v}_p$. This expresses $\mathbf{v}_1$ as a linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_p$, so $\mathbf{v}_1$ is in W. In general, $\mathbf{v}_k$ is in W because

$$\mathbf{v}_k = 0\mathbf{v}_1 + \cdots + 0\mathbf{v}_{k-1} + 1\mathbf{v}_k + 0\mathbf{v}_{k+1} + \cdots + 0\mathbf{v}_p$$

4.2 NULL SPACES, COLUMN SPACES, AND LINEAR TRANSFORMATIONS

In applications of linear algebra, subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^n$ usually arise in one of two ways: (1) as the set of all solutions to a system of homogeneous linear equations or (2) as the set of all linear combinations of certain specified vectors. In this section, we compare and contrast these two descriptions of subspaces, allowing us to practice using the concept of a subspace. Actually, as you will soon discover, we have been working with subspaces ever since Section 1.3. The main new feature here is the terminology. The section concludes with a discussion of the kernel and range of a linear transformation.

The Null Space of a Matrix

Consider the following system of homogeneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 &= 0 \\ -5x_1 + 9x_2 + x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned} \qquad (1)$$

In matrix form, this system is written as $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{2}$$

Recall that the set of all $\mathbf{x}$ that satisfy (1) is called the **solution set** of the system (1). Often it is convenient to relate this set directly to the matrix A and the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. We call the set of $\mathbf{x}$ that satisfy $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ the **null space** of the matrix A.

DEFINITION

The **null space** of an $m \times n$ matrix A, written as Nul A, is the set of all solutions of the homogeneous equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. In set notation,

$$\text{Nul } A = \{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \text{ is in } \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}\}$$

A more dynamic description of Nul A is the set of all $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$ that are mapped into the zero vector of $\mathbb{R}^m$ via the linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$. See Fig. 1.

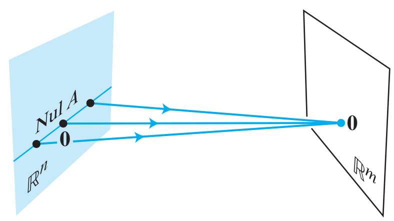


FIGURE 1

EXAMPLE 1 Let A be the matrix in (2) above, and let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$. Determine if $\mathbf{u}$ belongs to the null space of A.

SOLUTION To test if $\mathbf{u}$ satisfies $A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, simply compute

$$A\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & -2 \\ -5 & 9 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 - 9 + 4 \\ -25 + 27 - 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus $\mathbf{u}$ is in Nul A. ■

The term *space* in *null space* is appropriate because the null space of a matrix is a vector space, as shown in the next theorem.

THEOREM 2

The null space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$. Equivalently, the set of all solutions to a system $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ of m homogeneous linear equations in n unknowns is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$.

PROOF Certainly Nul A is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$ because A has n columns. We must show that Nul A satisfies the three properties of a subspace. Of course, $\mathbf{0}$ is in Nul A. Next, let $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ represent any two vectors in Nul A. Then

$$A\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$$

To show that $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is in Nul A, we must show that $A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{0}$. Using a property of matrix multiplication, compute

$$A(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = A\mathbf{u} + A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0} + \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

Thus $\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}$ is in Nul A, and Nul A is closed under vector addition. Finally, if c is any scalar, then

$$A(c\mathbf{u}) = c(A\mathbf{u}) = c(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$$

which shows that $c\mathbf{u}$ is in Nul A. Thus Nul A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$. ■

EXAMPLE 2 Let H be the set of all vectors in $\mathbb{R}^4$ whose coordinates a, b, c, d satisfy the equations $a - 2b + 5c = d$ and $c - a = b$. Show that H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$.

SOLUTION Rearrange the equations that describe the elements of H, and note that H is the set of all solutions of the following system of homogeneous linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned} a - 2b + 5c - d &= 0 \\ -a - b + c &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 2, H is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$. ■

It is important that the linear equations defining the set H are homogeneous. Otherwise, the set of solutions will definitely *not* be a subspace (because the zero vector is not a solution of a nonhomogeneous system). Also, in some cases, the set of solutions could be empty.

An Explicit Description of Nul A

There is no obvious relation between vectors in Nul A and the entries in A. We say that Nul A is defined *implicitly*, because it is defined by a condition that must be checked. No explicit list or description of the elements in Nul A is given. However, *solving* the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ amounts to producing an *explicit* description of Nul A. The next example reviews the procedure from Section 1.5.

EXAMPLE 3 Find a spanning set for the null space of the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 6 & -1 & 1 & -7 \\ 1 & -2 & 2 & 3 & -1 \\ 2 & -4 & 5 & 8 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

SOLUTION The first step is to find the general solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ in terms of free variables. Row reduce the augmented matrix $[\, A \quad \mathbf{0} \,]$ to *reduced* echelon form in order to write the basic variables in terms of the free variables:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad \begin{aligned} x_1 - 2x_2 - x_4 + 3x_5 &= 0 \\ x_3 + 2x_4 - 2x_5 &= 0 \\ 0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The general solution is $x_1 = 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5$, $x_3 = -2x_4 + 2x_5$, with x_2, x_4, and x_5 free. Next, decompose the vector giving the general solution into a linear combination of vectors where *the weights are the free variables*. That is,

$$\begin{aligned}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 + x_4 - 3x_5 \\ x_2 \\ -2x_4 + 2x_5 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} &= x_2 \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \mathbf{u}}}{\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} + x_4 \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \mathbf{v}}}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} + x_5 \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \mathbf{w}}}{\begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}} \\ &= x_2\mathbf{u} + x_4\mathbf{v} + x_5\mathbf{w} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Every linear combination of $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$, and $\mathbf{w}$ is an element of Nul A. Thus $\{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}\}$ is a spanning set for Nul A. ■

Two points should be made about the solution of Example 3 that apply to all problems of this type where Nul A contains nonzero vectors. We will use these facts later.

1. The spanning set produced by the method in Example 3 is automatically linearly independent because the free variables are the weights on the spanning vectors. For instance, look at the 2nd, 4th, and 5th entries in the solution vector in (3) and note that $x_2\mathbf{u} + x_4\mathbf{v} + x_5\mathbf{w}$ can be $\mathbf{0}$ only if the weights x_2, x_4, and x_5 are all zero.
2. When Nul A contains nonzero vectors, the number of vectors in the spanning set for Nul A equals the number of free variables in the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

The Column Space of a Matrix

Another important subspace associated with a matrix is its column space. Unlike the null space, the column space is defined explicitly via linear combinations.

DEFINITION

The **column space** of an $m \times n$ matrix A, written as Col A, is the set of all linear combinations of the columns of A. If $A = [\,\mathbf{a}_1 \;\; \cdots \;\; \mathbf{a}_n\,]$, then

$$\text{Col } A = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$$

Since Span $\{\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n\}$ is a subspace, by Theorem 1, the next theorem follows from the definition of Col A and the fact that the columns of A are in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

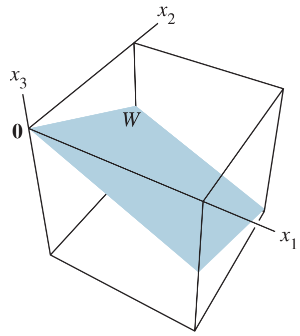
THEOREM 3

The column space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^m$.

Note that a typical vector in Col A can be written as $A\mathbf{x}$ for some $\mathbf{x}$ because the notation $A\mathbf{x}$ stands for a linear combination of the columns of A. That is,

$$\boxed{\text{Col } A = \{\mathbf{b} : \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{x} \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^n\}}$$

The notation $A\mathbf{x}$ for vectors in Col A also shows that Col A is the *range* of the linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$. We will return to this point of view at the end of the section.



EXAMPLE 4 Find a matrix A such that $W = \text{Col}\, A$.

$$W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 6a - b \\ a + b \\ -7a \end{bmatrix} : a, b \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

SOLUTION First, write W as a set of linear combinations.

$$W = \left\{ a \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} : a, b \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \right\} = \text{Span} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Second, use the vectors in the spanning set as the columns of A. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ -7 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.
Then $W = \text{Col}\, A$, as desired. ■

Recall from Theorem 4 in Section 1.4 that the columns of A span $\mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution for each $\mathbf{b}$. We can restate this fact as follows:

The column space of an $m \times n$ matrix A is all of $\mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution for each $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

The Contrast Between Nul A and Col A

It is natural to wonder how the null space and column space of a matrix are related. In fact, the two spaces are quite dissimilar, as Examples 5–7 will show. Nevertheless, a surprising connection between the null space and column space will emerge in Section 4.6, after more theory is available.

EXAMPLE 5 Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 3 & 7 & -8 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

a. If the column space of A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$, what is k?

b. If the null space of A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$, what is k?

SOLUTION

a. The columns of A each have three entries, so Col A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$, where $k = 3$.

b. A vector $\mathbf{x}$ such that $A\mathbf{x}$ is defined must have four entries, so Nul A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$, where $k = 4$. ■

When a matrix is not square, as in Example 5, the vectors in Nul A and Col A live in entirely different "universes." For example, no linear combination of vectors in $\mathbb{R}^3$ can produce a vector in $\mathbb{R}^4$. When A is square, Nul A and Col A do have the zero vector in common, and in special cases it is possible that some nonzero vectors belong to both Nul A and Col A.

EXAMPLE 6 With A as in Example 5, find a nonzero vector in Col A and a nonzero vector in Nul A.

SOLUTION It is easy to find a vector in Col A. Any column of A will do, say, $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

To find a nonzero vector in Nul A, row reduce the augmented matrix $[\,A \quad \mathbf{0}\,]$ and obtain

$$[\,A \quad \mathbf{0}\,] \sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 9 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus, if $\mathbf{x}$ satisfies $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, then $x_1 = -9x_3$, $x_2 = 5x_3$, $x_4 = 0$, and x_3 is free. Assigning a nonzero value to x_3—say, $x_3 = 1$—we obtain a vector in Nul A, namely, $\mathbf{x} = (-9, 5, 1, 0)$. ■

EXAMPLE 7 With A as in Example 5, let $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

a. Determine if $\mathbf{u}$ is in Nul A. Could $\mathbf{u}$ be in Col A?

b. Determine if $\mathbf{v}$ is in Col A. Could $\mathbf{v}$ be in Nul A?

SOLUTION

a. An explicit description of Nul A is not needed here. Simply compute the product $A\mathbf{u}$.

$$A\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -2 & 1 \\ -2 & -5 & 7 & 3 \\ 3 & 7 & -8 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \neq \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Obviously, $\mathbf{u}$ is *not* a solution of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$, so $\mathbf{u}$ is not in Nul A. Also, with four entries, $\mathbf{u}$ could not possibly be in Col A, since Col A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$.

b. Reduce $[\,A \quad \mathbf{v}\,]$ to an echelon form.

$$[\,A \quad \mathbf{v}\,] = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ -2 & -5 & 7 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 7 & -8 & 6 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & -2 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & -5 & -4 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 17 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

At this point, it is clear that the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ is consistent, so $\mathbf{v}$ is in Col A. With only three entries, $\mathbf{v}$ could not possibly be in Nul A, since Nul A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$. ■

The table on page 204 summarizes what we have learned about Nul A and Col A. Item 8 is a restatement of Theorems 11 and 12(a) in Section 1.9.

Kernel and Range of a Linear Transformation

Subspaces of vector spaces other than $\mathbb{R}^n$ are often described in terms of a linear transformation instead of a matrix. To make this precise, we generalize the definition given in Section 1.8.

Contrast Between Nul A and Col A for an $m \times n$ Matrix A

Nul A	Col A
1. Nul A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^n$.	**1.** Col A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^m$.
2. Nul A is implicitly defined; that is, you are given only a condition ($A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$) that vectors in Nul A must satisfy.	**2.** Col A is explicitly defined; that is, you are told how to build vectors in Col A.
3. It takes time to find vectors in Nul A. Row operations on $[\,A \quad \mathbf{0}\,]$ are required.	**3.** It is easy to find vectors in Col A. The columns of A are displayed; others are formed from them.
4. There is no obvious relation between Nul A and the entries in A.	**4.** There is an obvious relation between Col A and the entries in A, since each column of A is in Col A.
5. A typical vector $\mathbf{v}$ in Nul A has the property that $A\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$.	**5.** A typical vector $\mathbf{v}$ in Col A has the property that the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ is consistent.
6. Given a specific vector $\mathbf{v}$, it is easy to tell if $\mathbf{v}$ is in Nul A. Just compute $A\mathbf{v}$.	**6.** Given a specific vector $\mathbf{v}$, it may take time to tell if $\mathbf{v}$ is in Col A. Row operations on $[\,A \quad \mathbf{v}\,]$ are required.
7. Nul $A = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ has only the trivial solution.	**7.** Col $A = \mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ has a solution for every $\mathbf{b}$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.
8. Nul $A = \{\mathbf{0}\}$ if and only if the linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ is one-to-one.	**8.** Col $A = \mathbb{R}^m$ if and only if the linear transformation $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$ maps $\mathbb{R}^n$ *onto* $\mathbb{R}^m$.

DEFINITION

A **linear transformation** T from a vector space V into a vector space W is a rule that assigns to each vector $\mathbf{x}$ in V a unique vector $T(\mathbf{x})$ in W, such that

(i) $T(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}) = T(\mathbf{u}) + T(\mathbf{v})$ for all $\mathbf{u}$, $\mathbf{v}$ in V, and

(ii) $T(c\mathbf{u}) = cT(\mathbf{u})$ for all $\mathbf{u}$ in V and all scalars c.

The **kernel** (or **null space**) of such a T is the set of all $\mathbf{u}$ in V such that $T(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$ (the zero vector in W). The **range** of T is the set of all vectors in W of the form $T(\mathbf{x})$ for some $\mathbf{x}$ in V. If T happens to arise as a matrix transformation—say, $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$ for some matrix A—then the kernel and the range of T are just the null space and the column space of A, as defined earlier.

It is not difficult to show that the kernel of T is a subspace of V. The proof is essentially the same as the one for Theorem 2. Also, the range of T is a subspace of W. See Fig. 2 and Exercise 30.

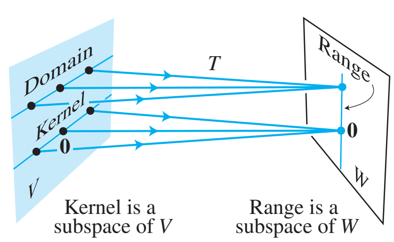


FIGURE 2 Subspaces associated with a linear transformation.

In applications, a subspace usually arises as either the kernel or the range of an appropriate linear transformation. For instance, the set of all solutions of a homogeneous linear differential equation turns out to be the kernel of a linear transformation.

Typically, such a linear transformation is described in terms of one or more derivatives of a function. To explain this in any detail would take us too far afield at this point. So we consider only two examples. The first explains why the operation of differentiation is a linear transformation.

EXAMPLE 8 (Calculus required) Let V be the vector space of all real-valued functions f defined on an interval $[a, b]$ with the property that they are differentiable and their derivatives are continuous functions on $[a, b]$. Let W be the vector space $C[a, b]$ of all continuous functions on $[a, b]$, and let $D : V \to W$ be the transformation that changes f in V into its derivative f'. In calculus, two simple differentiation rules are

$$D(f + g) = D(f) + D(g) \quad \text{and} \quad D(cf) = cD(f)$$

That is, D is a linear transformation. It can be shown that the kernel of D is the set of constant functions on $[a, b]$ and the range of D is the set W of all continuous functions on $[a, b]$. ■

EXAMPLE 9 (Calculus required) The differential equation

$$y'' + \omega^2 y = 0 \tag{4}$$

where ω is a constant, is used to describe a variety of physical systems, such as the vibration of a weighted spring, the movement of a pendulum, and the voltage in an inductance-capacitance electrical circuit. The set of solutions of (4) is precisely the kernel of the linear transformation that maps a function $y = f(t)$ into the function $f''(t) + \omega^2 f(t)$. Finding an explicit description of this vector space is a problem in differential equations. The solution set turns out to be the space described in Exercise 19 in Section 4.1. ■

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Let $W = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} : a - 3b - c = 0 \right\}$. Show in two different ways that W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$. (Use two theorems.)

2. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -3 & 5 \\ -4 & 1 & -5 \\ -5 & 2 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$. Suppose you know that the equations $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v}$ and $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{w}$ are both consistent. What can you say about the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$?

4.2 EXERCISES

1. Determine if $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix}$ is in Nul A, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -5 & -3 \\ 6 & -2 & 0 \\ -8 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

2. Determine if $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is in Nul A, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 & 4 \\ -3 & 2 & 5 \\ -5 & -4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

In Exercises 3–6, find an explicit description of Nul A, by listing vectors that span the null space.

3. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$

4. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

5. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -4 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

6. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -4 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

In Exercises 7–14, either use an appropriate theorem to show that the given set, W, is a vector space, or find a specific example to the contrary.

7. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} : a + b + c = 2 \right\}$ **8.** $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} r \\ s \\ t \end{bmatrix} : 3r - 2 = 3s + t \right\}$

9. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \\ s \end{bmatrix} : \begin{matrix} p - 3q = 4s \\ 2p = s + 5r \end{matrix} \right\}$ **10.** $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix} : \begin{matrix} 3a + b = c \\ a + b + 2c = 2d \end{matrix} \right\}$

11. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} s - 2t \\ 3 + 3s \\ 3s + t \\ 2s \end{bmatrix} : s, t \text{ real} \right\}$ **12.** $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 3p - 5q \\ 4q \\ p \\ q + 1 \end{bmatrix} : p, q \text{ real} \right\}$

13. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} c - 6d \\ d \\ c \end{bmatrix} : c, d \text{ real} \right\}$ **14.** $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -s + 3t \\ s - 2t \\ 5s - t \end{bmatrix} : s, t \text{ real} \right\}$

In Exercises 15 and 16, find A such that the given set is Col A.

15. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 2s + t \\ r - s + 2t \\ 3r + s \\ 2r - s - t \end{bmatrix} : r, s, t \text{ real} \right\}$

16. $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} b - c \\ 2b + 3d \\ b + 3c - 3d \\ c + d \end{bmatrix} : b, c, d \text{ real} \right\}$

For the matrices in Exercises 17–20, (a) find k such that Nul A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$, and (b) find k such that Col A is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^k$.

17. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -4 \\ -3 & 2 \\ -9 & 6 \\ 9 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$ **18.** $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -2 & 3 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 \\ -5 & 7 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$

19. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 5 & -2 & 6 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

20. $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & 2 & 0 & -5 \end{bmatrix}$

21. With A as in Exercise 17, find a nonzero vector in Nul A and a nonzero vector in Col A.

22. With A as in Exercise 18, find a nonzero vector in Nul A and a nonzero vector in Col A.

23. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 4 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Determine if $\mathbf{w}$ is in Col A. Is $\mathbf{w}$ in Nul A?

24. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & -8 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & -2 \\ 1 & -1 & 6 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$. Determine if $\mathbf{w}$ is in Col A. Is $\mathbf{w}$ in Nul A?

In Exercises 25 and 26, A denotes an $m \times n$ matrix. Mark each statement True or False. Justify each answer.

25. a. The null space of A is the solution set of the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

b. The null space of an $m \times n$ matrix is in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

c. The column space of A is the range of the mapping $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$.

d. If the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is consistent, then Col A is $\mathbb{R}^m$.

e. The kernel of a linear transformation is a vector space.

f. Col A is the set of all vectors that can be written as $A\mathbf{x}$ for some $\mathbf{x}$.

26. a. A null space is a vector space.

b. The column space of an $m \times n$ matrix is in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

c. Col A is the set of all solutions of $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$.

d. Nul A is the kernel of the mapping $\mathbf{x} \mapsto A\mathbf{x}$.

e. The range of a linear transformation is a vector space.

f. The set of all solutions of a homogeneous linear differential equation is the kernel of a linear transformation.

27. It can be shown that a solution of the system below is $x_1 = 3$, $x_2 = 2$, and $x_3 = -1$. Use this fact and the theory from this section to explain why another solution is $x_1 = 30$, $x_2 = 20$, and $x_3 = -10$. (Observe how the solutions are related, but make no other calculations.)

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - 3x_2 - 3x_3 &= 0 \\ -2x_1 + 4x_2 + 2x_3 &= 0 \\ -x_1 + 5x_2 + 7x_3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

28. Consider the following two systems of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} 5x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 &= 0 \\ -9x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 &= 1 \\ 4x_1 + x_2 - 6x_3 &= 9 \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} 5x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 &= 0 \\ -9x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 &= 5 \\ 4x_1 + x_2 - 6x_3 &= 45 \end{aligned}$$

It can be shown that the first system has a solution. Use this fact and the theory from this section to explain why the second system must also have a solution. (Make no row operations.)

29. Prove Theorem 3 as follows: Given an $m \times n$ matrix A, an element in Col A has the form $A\mathbf{x}$ for some $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Let $A\mathbf{x}$ and $A\mathbf{w}$ represent any two vectors in Col A.

a. Explain why the zero vector is in Col A.

b. Show that the vector $A\mathbf{x} + A\mathbf{w}$ is in Col A.

c. Given a scalar c, show that $c(A\mathbf{x})$ is in Col A.

30. Let $T : V \to W$ be a linear transformation from a vector space V into a vector space W. Prove that the range of T is a subspace of W. [*Hint:* Typical elements of the range have the form $T(\mathbf{x})$ and $T(\mathbf{w})$ for some $\mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{w}$ in V.]

31. Define $T : \mathbb{P}_2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ by $T(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}(0) \\ \mathbf{p}(1) \end{bmatrix}$. For instance, if $\mathbf{p}(t) = 3 + 5t + 7t^2$, then $T(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 15 \end{bmatrix}$.

a. Show that T is a linear transformation. [*Hint:* For arbitrary polynomials $\mathbf{p}$, $\mathbf{q}$ in $\mathbb{P}_2$, compute $T(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q})$ and $T(c\mathbf{p})$.]

b. Find a polynomial $\mathbf{p}$ in $\mathbb{P}_2$ that spans the kernel of T, and describe the range of T.

32. Define a linear transformation $T : \mathbb{P}_2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ by $T(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}(0) \\ \mathbf{p}(0) \end{bmatrix}$. Find polynomials $\mathbf{p}_1$ and $\mathbf{p}_2$ in $\mathbb{P}_2$ that span the kernel of T, and describe the range of T.

33. Let $M_{2\times 2}$ be the vector space of all 2×2 matrices, and define $T : M_{2\times 2} \to M_{2\times 2}$ by $T(A) = A + A^T$, where $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$.

a. Show that T is a linear transformation.

b. Let B be any element of $M_{2\times 2}$ such that $B^T = B$. Find an A in $M_{2\times 2}$ such that $T(A) = B$.

c. Show that the range of T is the set of B in $M_{2\times 2}$ with the property that $B^T = B$.

d. Describe the kernel of T.

34. (*Calculus required*) Define $T : C[0,1] \to C[0,1]$ as follows: For $\mathbf{f}$ in $C[0,1]$, let $T(\mathbf{f})$ be the antiderivative $\mathbf{F}$ of $\mathbf{f}$ such that $\mathbf{F}(0) = 0$. Show that T is a linear transformation, and describe the kernel of T. (See the notation in Exercise 20 of Section 4.1.)

35. Let V and W be vector spaces, and let $T : V \to W$ be a linear transformation. Given a subspace U of V, let $T(U)$ denote the set of all images of the form $T(\mathbf{x})$, where $\mathbf{x}$ is in U. Show that $T(U)$ is a subspace of W.

36. Given $T : V \to W$ as in Exercise 35, and given a subspace Z of W, let U be the set of all $\mathbf{x}$ in V such that $T(\mathbf{x})$ is in Z. Show that U is a subspace of V.

37. **[M]** Determine whether $\mathbf{w}$ is in the column space of A, the null space of A, or both, where

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 6 & -4 & 1 \\ -5 & -1 & 0 & -2 \\ 9 & -11 & 7 & -3 \\ 19 & -9 & 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

38. **[M]** Determine whether $\mathbf{w}$ is in the column space of A, the null space of A, or both, where

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} -8 & 5 & -2 & 0 \\ -5 & 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 10 & -8 & 6 & -3 \\ 3 & -2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

39. **[M]** Let $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_5$ denote the columns of the matrix A, where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 3 & 2 & -1 & -12 \\ 8 & 4 & 4 & -5 & 12 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = [\, \mathbf{a}_1 \quad \mathbf{a}_2 \quad \mathbf{a}_4 \,]$$

a. Explain why $\mathbf{a}_3$ and $\mathbf{a}_5$ are in the column space of B.

b. Find a set of vectors that spans Nul A.

c. Let $T : \mathbb{R}^5 \to \mathbb{R}^4$ be defined by $T(\mathbf{x}) = A\mathbf{x}$. Explain why T is neither one-to-one nor onto.

40. **[M]** Let $H = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$ and $K = \text{Span}\,\{\mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4\}$, where

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -12 \\ -28 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then H and K are subspaces of $\mathbb{R}^3$. In fact, H and K are planes in $\mathbb{R}^3$ through the origin, and they intersect in a line through $\mathbf{0}$. Find a nonzero vector $\mathbf{w}$ that generates that line. [*Hint:* $\mathbf{w}$ can be written as $c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2$ and also as $c_3\mathbf{v}_3 + c_4\mathbf{v}_4$. To build $\mathbf{w}$, solve the equation $c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 = c_3\mathbf{v}_3 + c_4\mathbf{v}_4$ for the unknown c_j's.]

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SOLUTIONS TO PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. *First method:* W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$ by Theorem 2 because W is the set of all solutions to a system of homogeneous linear equations (where the system has only one equation). Equivalently, W is the null space of the 1×3 matrix $A = [\, 1 \quad -3 \quad -1 \,]$.

Second method: Solve the equation $a - 3b - c = 0$ for the leading variable a in terms of the free variables b and c. Any solution has the form $\begin{bmatrix} 3b + c \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$, where b and c are arbitrary, and

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3b + c \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} = b \underset{\uparrow \atop \mathbf{v}_1}{\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} + c \underset{\uparrow \atop \mathbf{v}_2}{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}}$$

This calculation shows that $W = \text{Span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$. Thus W is a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^3$ by Theorem 1. We could also solve the equation $a - 3b - c = 0$ for b or c and get alternative descriptions of W as a set of linear combinations of two vectors.

2. Both $\mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{w}$ are in Col A. Since Col A is a vector space, $\mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$ must be in Col A. That is, the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{w}$ is consistent.

4.3 LINEARLY INDEPENDENT SETS; BASES

In this section we identify and study the subsets that span a vector space V or a subspace H as "efficiently" as possible. The key idea is that of linear independence, defined as in $\mathbb{R}^n$.

An indexed set of vectors $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ in V is said to be **linearly independent** if the vector equation

$$c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \cdots + c_p\mathbf{v}_p = \mathbf{0} \tag{1}$$

has *only* the trivial solution, $c_1 = 0, \dots, c_p = 0$.[1]

The set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ is said to be **linearly dependent** if (1) has a nontrivial solution, that is, if there are some weights, $c_1, \dots, c_p$, *not all zero*, such that (1) holds. In such a case, (1) is called a **linear dependence relation** among $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p$.

Just as in $\mathbb{R}^n$, a set containing a single vector $\mathbf{v}$ is linearly independent if and only if $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$. Also, a set of two vectors is linearly dependent if and only if one of the vectors is a multiple of the other. And any set containing the zero vector is linearly dependent. The following theorem has the same proof as Theorem 7 in Section 1.7.

THEOREM 4

An indexed set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_p\}$ of two or more vectors, with $\mathbf{v}_1 \neq \mathbf{0}$, is linearly dependent if and only if some $\mathbf{v}_j$ (with $j > 1$) is a linear combination of the preceding vectors, $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{j-1}$.

The main difference between linear dependence in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and in a general vector space is that when the vectors are not n-tuples, the homogeneous equation (1) usually cannot be written as a system of n linear equations. That is, the vectors cannot be made into the columns of a matrix A in order to study the equation $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. We must rely instead on the definition of linear dependence and on Theorem 4.

EXAMPLE 1 Let $\mathbf{p}_1(t) = 1$, $\mathbf{p}_2(t) = t$, and $\mathbf{p}_3(t) = 4 - t$. Then $\{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2, \mathbf{p}_3\}$ is linearly dependent in $\mathbb{P}$ because $\mathbf{p}_3 = 4\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2$. ■

[1] It is convenient to use $c_1, \dots, c_p$ in (1) for the scalars instead of $x_1, \dots, x_p$, as we did in Chapter 1.